

REMARKS

Prior to the present Office Action, dated October 4, 2004, the Examiner allowed claim 21, rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. rejected claims 1, 5-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Miner (U.S. Patent No. 1,054,132) and Ralph, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,644,087), rejected claims 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ralph, et al. in view of Dawson (U.S. Patent No. 3,874,165), rejected claims 12 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ralph, et al. In view of Johnson, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,615,572) and objected to claims 3, 4, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the Applicant is amending the claims to place the objected to claims in allowable condition. As such, the Applicants believe the amendments made in response to the Examiner's objections and rejections have placed the application in condition for allowance.

The Claims

As stated above, it is the intent of this amendment to merely place the application in condition for allowance by rewriting the objected to claims in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The claim allowed by the Examiner are not being amended herein. Set forth below is a table summarizing the amendments made herein.

| <u>Current Claim Number</u> | <u>Former Number(s)</u> | <u>Current Dependency</u> | <u>Dependency Change</u> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | 1+2+3 | Indep | --- |
| 2 | Cancelled | --- | --- |
| 3 | Cancelled | --- | --- |
| 4 | 4 | 1 | Yes (from 3) |
| 5 | 5 | 1 | No |
| 6 | 6 | 1 | No |
| 7 | 7 | 1 | No |
| 8 | 8 | 7 | No |

RESPONSE/AMENDMENT

Appl. # 10,802,546

| <u>Current Claim Number</u> | <u>Former Number(s)</u> | <u>Current Dependency</u> | <u>Dependency Change</u> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 9 | 9 | 8 | No |
| 10 | 10 | 1 | Yes (from 10) |
| 11 | 11 | 1 | No |
| 12 | 12 | 11 | No |
| 13 | 13 | 12 | No |
| 14 | 14 | 13 | No |
| 15 | 15+16 | Indep. | ---- |
| 16 | Cancelled | — | ---- |
| 17 | 17 | 15 | No |
| 18 | 18 | 15 | No |
| 19 | 19 | 15 | No |
| 20 | 20 | 19 | No |
| 21 | 21 | Indep. | --- |
| 22 (New) | 4 | 15 | --- |
| 23 (New) | 10 | 22 | --- |
| 24 (New) | 10 | 15 | --- |
| 25 (New) | 2+3 | 21 | --- |
| 26 (New) | 4 | 25 | --- |
| 26 (New) | 10 | 26 | --- |
| 28 (New) | 10 | 21 | --- |
| 29 (New) | 14 | 21 | --- |
| 30 (New) | 17 | 21 | --- |
| 31 (New) | 1+10 | Indep. | --- |
| 32 (New) | 2+3+4 | 31 | --- |
| 33 (New) | 1+11+12+13 | Indep. | --- |
| 34 (New) | 14 | 33 | --- |
| 35 (New) | 2+3+4 | 33 | --- |
| 36 (New) | 10 | 35 | --- |
| 37 (New) | 10 | 33 | --- |

With regard to cancelled claims 2 and 3 and 16, claims 2 and 3 are being cancelled as the limitations thereof are being incorporated into claim 1 (claim 3 being objected to and claims 1 and 2 being the base claim and intervening claim, respectively) and claim 16 is being cancelled as the limitations thereof are incorporated into the independent claim 15 (claim 16 being objected to and claim 15 being the base claim).

With regard to new claims 22, 23 and 24, these claims are dependent on claim 15 (as amended herein to incorporate objected to claim 16) and should be renumbered to reflect the dependency from claim 15. As amended claim 15 is believed allowable, new claims 22, 23 and 24 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

1 With regard to new claims 25-30, these claims are dependent on claim 21, which was
2 previously identified as being allowable and, therefore, are believed to be in condition for allowance. As
3 set forth above, these claims are various previously presented dependent claims.

4 With regard to new independent claim 31, this claim incorporates the limitations of the
5 objected to claim 10 and its base claim 1 (there being no intervening claims). New claim 32 is a
6 combination of previously presented dependent claims 2, 3 and 4, except rewritten to reflect the
7 combination thereof and its dependency on new independent claim 31.

8 With regard to new independent claim 33, this claim incorporates the limitations of the
9 objected to claim 13 and its base claim 1 and the intervening claims 11 and 12. New claims 34-37 are
10 previously presented dependent claims or a combination of previously presented dependent claims (with
11 regard to new claim 35), except rewritten to reflect the combination thereof and/or the dependency on
12 new independent claim 33.

13 The original application included three independent claims and twenty-one total claims.
14 Three claims were cancelled, two independent claims were added and a total of 16 new claims were
15 added. As a result, after this amendment, there will be five independent claims and a total of thirty-
16 four claims requiring an additional fee of \$205.00 is believed due (two independent claims at \$44.00
17 each and thirteen additional total claims at \$9.00 each) for a small entity. A check in the amount of
18 \$205.00 is included herewith.

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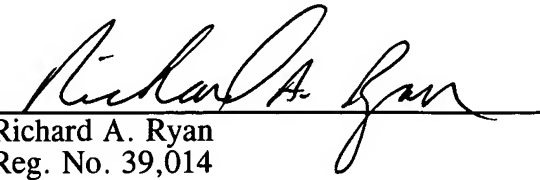
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1 In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for
2 allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections in light of this Amendment is requested.
3 Allowance of claims 1, 4-15 and 17-37 is solicited.

4 Dated: November / , 2004.

5 Respectfully Submitted,

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